



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

Tuscola County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, MI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Tuscola County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Tuscola County (population 58,266) is at the western edge of the "thumb" of Michigan's lower peninsula. Lumber production and agriculture provided the initial economic base for the county. Although agriculture remains a vital component of the economy, less than five percent of county



Assessment Grants



**\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum**

EPA has selected the Tuscola County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct 15 to 20 Phase I and two to three Phase II environmental site assessments, and community outreach activities. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform the same tasks at sites with potential petroleum contamination.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Tuscola County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, MI
989-673-2849

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

residents are employed in farming, forestry, fishing, and mining. The county is experiencing a decline in its industrial and retail sectors with an additional 18.6 percent loss of manufacturing jobs over the past few years. This is reflected in an unemployment rate that is chronically higher than that of the state. The Northwest Waterfront District contains more than 76 oil and gas wells, many in prime agricultural and residential

areas. Several industrial corridors in the county contain numerous brownfields. Assessment of brownfields in these vital industrial areas will increase their marketability and encourage sustainable reuse. Redevelopment is needed to create jobs, help restore the tax base, and preserve farmlands, wetlands, and forests.